

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HEREWITH FULL TEXT CLARK MOLLENHOFF REGISTER AND TRIBUNE
SYNDICATE COLUMN HEADED "SCANDAL FOR KISSINGER?" AS IT
APPEARED IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH SUNDAY, DEC. 16:

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS RISKING HIS
OWN "WATERGATE SCANDAL" AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY ISSUING
QUESTIONABLE SECRECY ORDERS TO PROTECT A GOOD FRIEND.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED THE HOUSE INTERNAL
SECURITY COMMITTEE THAT IT WON'T PERMIT FRANCIS NILAND, A
FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY OFFICIAL AND NOW A JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT LAWYER, TO TESTIFY CONCERNING THE SECURITY IN-
VESTIGATION INVOLVING SOVIET EXPERT HELMUT SONNENFELDT.

REP. JOHN ASHBROOK, R-OHIO, HAS CHALLENGED BOTH THE
AUTHORITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLITICAL WISDOM
OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IN ITS ORDERS TO NILAND.

AT ISSUE IS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE DEPARTMENT
SECURITY PROCEDURES, POSSIBLE PERJURY BY SONNENFELDT OR
OTHERS, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL
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BE PERMITTED TO BLOCK A PROPER CONGRESSIONAL INVESTI-

GATION.

SONNENFELDT, A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICIAL, IS ACCUSED OF HAVING LEAKED HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO A FOREIGN POWER AND HAVING LIED ABOUT IT RECENTLY IN A HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE SONNENFELDT CASE IS ONLY THE MOST RECENT OF MANY STATE DEPARTMENT CASES INVOLVING HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE SECURITY AND UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS OF PERJURY AND LACK OF COOPERATION WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

IT COULD BE THE MOST EXPLOSIVE BECAUSE IT CENTERS ON THE ACTIVITY AND TESTIMONY OF A MAN WHO IS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF KISSINGER AND WHO, AS A SOVIET EXPERT, HAS BEEN PRIVY TO THE NATION'S HIGHEST SECRETS AS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FOR FIVE YEARS.

LAST SPRING, SONNENFELDT WAS NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO BE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, A ROLE IN WHICH HE WOULD HAVE HAD TOP INFLUENCE IN EAST-WEST TRADE RELATIONS.

THE NOMINATION RAN INTO LONG DELAYS IN THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF THE QUESTIONS SEN. JESSE HELMS, R-N.C., RAISED ABOUT THE SECURITY INVESTIGATION AND THOSE BY SEN. HARRY BYRD, IND.-VA., REGARDING SONNENFELDT'S ROLE IN THE DISASTROUS SOVIET WHEAT DEALS.

SONNENFELDT ASSURED THE SENATE COMMITTEE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD LEARNED MANY LESSONS FROM THE DISASTER AND WOULD NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN.

BUT THE ADMISSION WAS NOT ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HELMS OR BYRD THAT SONNENFELDT SHOULD BE PROMOTED TO A BROADER ROLE OVER ALL EAST-WEST TRADE.

SEN. RUSSELL LONG, D-LA., BENT TO THE PLEADINGS OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND GAVE THE NOMINATION THE CAUTIOUS APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE ARRANGED FOR ITS EDITED VERSION OF THE SONNENFELDT SECURITY INVESTIGATION.

THE DELAY ON SONNENFELDT'S NOMINATION STARTED WHEN WILLIAM P. ROGERS WAS SECRETARY OF STATE. BUT, HE RESIGNED AND KISSINGER HAD BEEN CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

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BY THAT TIME, KISSINGER WANTED SONNENFELDT AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS ONE OF HIS TOP AIDES ON SOVIET AFFAIRS, AND HE PERSUADED PRESIDENT NIXON TO WITHDRAW THE UNDERSECRETARY NOMINATION IN FAVOR OF A NOMINATION AS COUNSELOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

THIS WILL BRING THE NOMINATION BEFORE THE TRADITIONALLY SOFT SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEADED BY J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK.

HOWEVER, REP. ASHBROOK HAS BECOME A THREAT IN THE CASE HE IS BUILDING AGAINST SONNENFELDT AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY SYSTEM.

THE CHARGE AGAINST SONNENFELDT IS THAT HE "LEAKED" HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE AGENTS.

RETIRED FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER STEPHEN KOCZAK, NOW THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, HAS TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS PRESENT WHEN SONNENFELDT TOLD THE ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE AGENTS INFORMATION THAT WAS SO HIGHLY CLASSIFIED THAT IT WAS RESTRICTED TO ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL AIDES TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

ANOTHER KEY WITNESS IN THE SONNENFELDT CASE IS JOHN D. HEMENWAY, A RETIRED FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO SERVED WITH SONNENFELDT IN SOVIET AFFAIRS.

KOCZAK, HEMENWAY AND FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY EVALUATOR OTTO F. OTEPKA CONTEND THAT CALLING NILAND IN A PUBLIC SESSION WOULD ESTABLISH THE LAXITY OF THE SECURITY PROCEDURES THAT PERMITTED SONNENFELDT TO SURVIVE AND BE STEADILY PROMOTED.

SONNENFELDT'S SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, ARGUE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERN AN INCIDENT THAT TOOK PLACE MORE THAN A DECADE AGO AND THAT THE SOVIET EXPERT'S PERFORMANCE SINCE THEN IN HIGH SENSITIVE POSTS IN GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS NOT A SECURITY RISK.

SONNENFELDT'S CRITICS CONTEND THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN ADEQUATE INVESTIGATION OF HIS "LEAKS" AND THAT EVIDENCE EXISTS THAT WILL ESTABLISH THAT HE PERJURED HIMSELF IN EXPLAINING HIS ACTION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

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THE STATE DEPARTMENT ORDERS BLOCKING THE TESTIMONY OF NILAND BEFORE THE INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE ARE PICTURED AS A "COVER-UP" COMPARABLE TO THAT OF WATERGATE IN A MATTER THAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT TO NATIONAL SECURITY THAN WATERGATE.

AS FAR AS ASHBROOK IS CONCERNED, THE CONFIRMATION OF SONNENFELDT BY THE SENATE AS COUNSELOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT END HIS DRIVE FOR THE FULL FACTS. "IF THEY HAVEN'T GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE, WHY WON'T THEY LET NILAND TESTIFY?" ASHBROOK QUESTIONS. (END TEXT) RUSH

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